

View in Web Browser

July 31, 2024



Ready To Serve ★ Proud To Have Served

## Commissioner's Corner



**VIETNAM**      **GULF WAR**      **POST - 9/11**

**WERE YOU EXPOSED TO BURN PITS,  
NUCLEAR WEAPONS, CHEMICALS,  
AGENT ORANGE, OR OTHER TOXINS  
WHILE SERVING IN THE MILITARY?**



**Apply for VA  
health care today  
at [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT).**

**VA** |  U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

 **Have questions?**  
Call 1-800-MyVA411 and press 0  
to speak with someone right away.

## Game Changer: PACT Act Expansion

In March, at the direction of President Joseph R. Biden, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs expanded health care eligibility to millions of Veterans - including all New Jersey Veterans who served in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, or any other combat zone after September 11, 2001 - years earlier than required by the PACT Act.

If you served and were exposed to toxins or hazards while serving our country, please seek the care you deserve. VA is proven to be the best, most affordable health care in America for Veterans. Once enrolled, you have access for life.

In addition to expanding access to VA care, the expansion makes it quicker and easier for millions of Veterans to enroll. Many Veterans believe they must apply to receive VA disability compensation benefits to become eligible for VA health care. This is incorrect. Today, thousands of eligible Garden State Veterans can enroll directly in VA care - without any need to first apply for VA benefits.

This is a game changer. This is the biggest expansion of care in generations. The bipartisan PACT Act is accelerating increased access to healthcare for New Jersey heroes. We encourage individuals to contact our team of trained and accredited veteran service officers to determine eligibility next steps.

There are twenty-one veterans service offices in each of New Jersey's twenty-one counties. To learn more about how to enroll in VA healthcare and access other state and federal benefits, contact the N.J. Department of Military and Veterans Affairs at 1-844-671-1019.

As always, thank you for staying connected to DMAVA.

We invite you to share ideas, events and feedback. Please email our team at [outreach@dmava.nj.gov](mailto:outreach@dmava.nj.gov).


**Colonel Yvonne L. Mays, Acting  
Adjutant General & Commissioner**





## Featured Events

VA New Jersey Health Care System | August 7th



 **August 07, 2024**

 **37 Plains Rd,  
Augusta, NJ 07822**

 **For more information on PACT Act eligibility:**  
The PACT Act: 2024 Expanded Health Care Eligibility toolkit or contact the New Jersey Health Care System Communications and Outreach team at [yanjhcscommsteam@va.gov](mailto:yanjhcscommsteam@va.gov).

**Not enrolled in VA Health Care?**

Bring your DD-214 and a completed 10-10EZ and enroll on the spot! Get screened and ask our VBA representatives questions about how to start a claim.

Applying for PACT Act benefits will not automatically impact your current benefits. Veterans who currently receive compensation for a service-connected condition will not have their previously awarded claims re-adjudicated simply because they file for new benefits under the PACT Act.



Look for our Mobile Vet Center on Main Street



Note: DMAVA will have a Veterans Service Officer present every day during the NJ State Fair | August 02-10



# Veterans Lethal Means Safety Symposium and BBQ

**WHEN:** Saturday, August 10, 2024  
**WHERE:** Camp Salute Community Center  
**LOCATION:** 100 Homer Street, Clayton, NJ 08312  
**TIMES:** 10am—12pm (Presentations)  
12pm—2pm (BBQ & Salsa Contest)



**VA**



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration  
Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center



PEOPLE FOR PEOPLE

Events

**DMAVA Calendar**

DMAVA is sponsoring or will participate in the events below. A DMAVA Veterans Service Officer will be present at many of these events. Please check details to confirm.

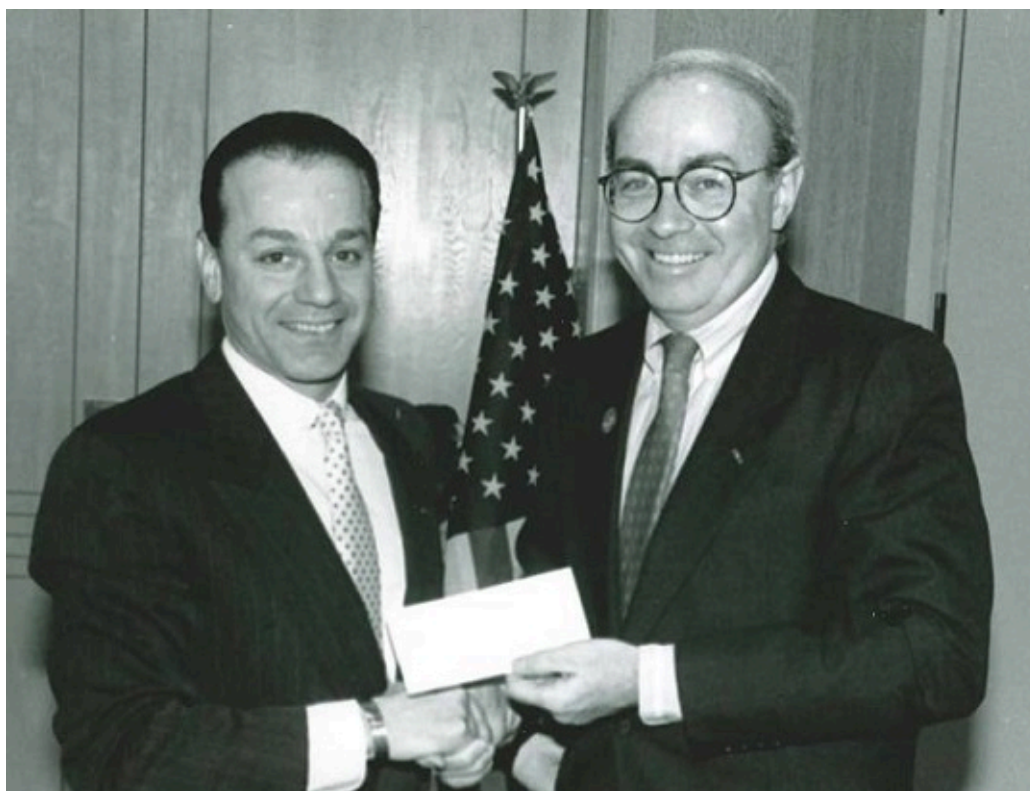
- August 2-10 | Augusta  
[New Jersey State Fair](#)
- August 3 | Parsippany  
[NJARNG Yellow Ribbon Event](#)
- August 6 | Lawrenceville  
[2024 Aviation Warrant Officer Symposium](#)
- August 9 | Ocean City  
[Veterans Outreach Campaign](#)
- August 9 | Sea Girt  
[Guest Speaker: New Jersey in "The War to End All Wars"](#)
- August 10 | Bordentown  
[ARNG Last Formation](#)
- August 12 | Galloway  
[State Medal Ceremony and Outreach Campaign](#)
- August 13 | Vineland  
[2024 Aviation Warrant Officer Symposium](#)
- August 14 | Wall  
[Monmouth County Veterans Resource Fair](#)
- August 22 | Teaneck  
[2024 Aviation Warrant Officer Symposium](#)
- August 23 | Sea Girt  
[Book Talk: Killing Shore – The True Story of Hitler’s U-Boats Off the New Jersey Coast](#)
- August 26 | Morris Plains  
[Morris County Veteran Appreciation Day](#)

# Community Calendar

We add new events to our calendar on a daily basis so please bookmark and check back often.

[View Full Calendar](#)

## Spotlight



**NJ Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation Appoints  
Senator Edward T. O'Connor as Board of Trustees  
Member**

*NJVVMF Release | July 24, 2024*

HOLMDEL - The [New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation](#) (NJVVMF) today announced Vietnam Veteran Senator and Judge Edward T. O'Connor, Capt., U.S. Army (Ret.), as a Board of Trustees Member. O'Connor, who represented the 31st district in the New Jersey State Senate from 1982-2002, was credited with writing the legislation to create the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial. The first Vietnam Combat Veteran to be elected to the New Jersey State Senate, O'Connor previously served as Chairman of New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation from 1987-1997.

"We're thrilled to appoint Vietnam Veteran Senator and Judge O'Connor to our Board of Trustees, as he has already dedicated so much to our organization, including sponsoring the bill to create a New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial," said Senator Nick Asselta (Ret.), Vice Chair of NJVVMF.

"Senator O'Connor served our country with honor as a Captain in the U.S. Army in Vietnam, then returned to New Jersey to fulfill a career of public service to the people of Hudson County in the state Legislature and as a Superior Court Judge," said Amy Osborn, Executive Director of NJVVMF. "His service to our state and our country is exemplary, and he's been steadfast in his dedication to New Jersey's Vietnam veterans."

During his tenure in the Senate, O'Connor served as the Minority Whip and Chaired the Senate Judiciary, Labor, and Joint Ethics Committees. Upon leaving the state Legislature in 2002, O'Connor was appointed as a Superior Court judge for Hudson County.

"The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial holds a special place in my heart, as it serves as a home to my fellow Vietnam Veterans, including the 1564 brave New Jersey men and one woman who died fighting for our country," said Senator O'Connor. "I'm pleased to join this dynamic Board of professionals who are dedicated to preserving the memories of New Jersey's fallen heroes, as well as the history of the Vietnam era, for future generations."

For more information about the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation, please visit [www.njvvmf.org](http://www.njvvmf.org).

## NJ National Guard



### **177th Fighter Wing**

Family, friends and fellow pilots of Col. Gregory P. Poston came to the flight line of the [177th Fighter Wing](#) to observe his last flight in the F-16C Fighting Falcon on July 18, 2024.

Congratulations, Col. Poston, and thank you for your many years of service as a Jersey Devil!



## Task Force Wolverine

[44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team](#) Soldiers assigned to Task Force Wolverine participated in the 1,000 lb. Club Challenge and a morale-building Wiffle ball game in their area of operations, July 20, 2024.

[View Images](#)

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## Join Our Team

**100% Free College Tuition**

**Bonuses up to \$20,000**

**Student Loan Repayment**



# DMAVA Veterans Services



## **71st Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice**

DMAVA held a ceremony commemorating the 71st anniversary of the armistice signing at the New Jersey Korean War Memorial in Atlantic City, NJ on July 26, 2024.

On July 27, 1953, the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed by representatives of the United States, the People's Republic of China, North Korea and South Korea.

The [New Jersey Korean War Memorial](#) was created to honor the 191,000 New Jerseyans who served in the conflict. It was dedicated November 13, 2000 on land donated by Atlantic City.

The memorial has a wall that bears the names of all New Jersey service members killed or missing in action, as well as a bas-relief honoring the five New Jersey Medal of Honor recipients. The bronze figures include the “Mourning Soldier,” a Soldier and a nurse helping a wounded Soldier, and two battlefield reliefs behind sheets of water cascading into reflecting pools.

[View Images](#)

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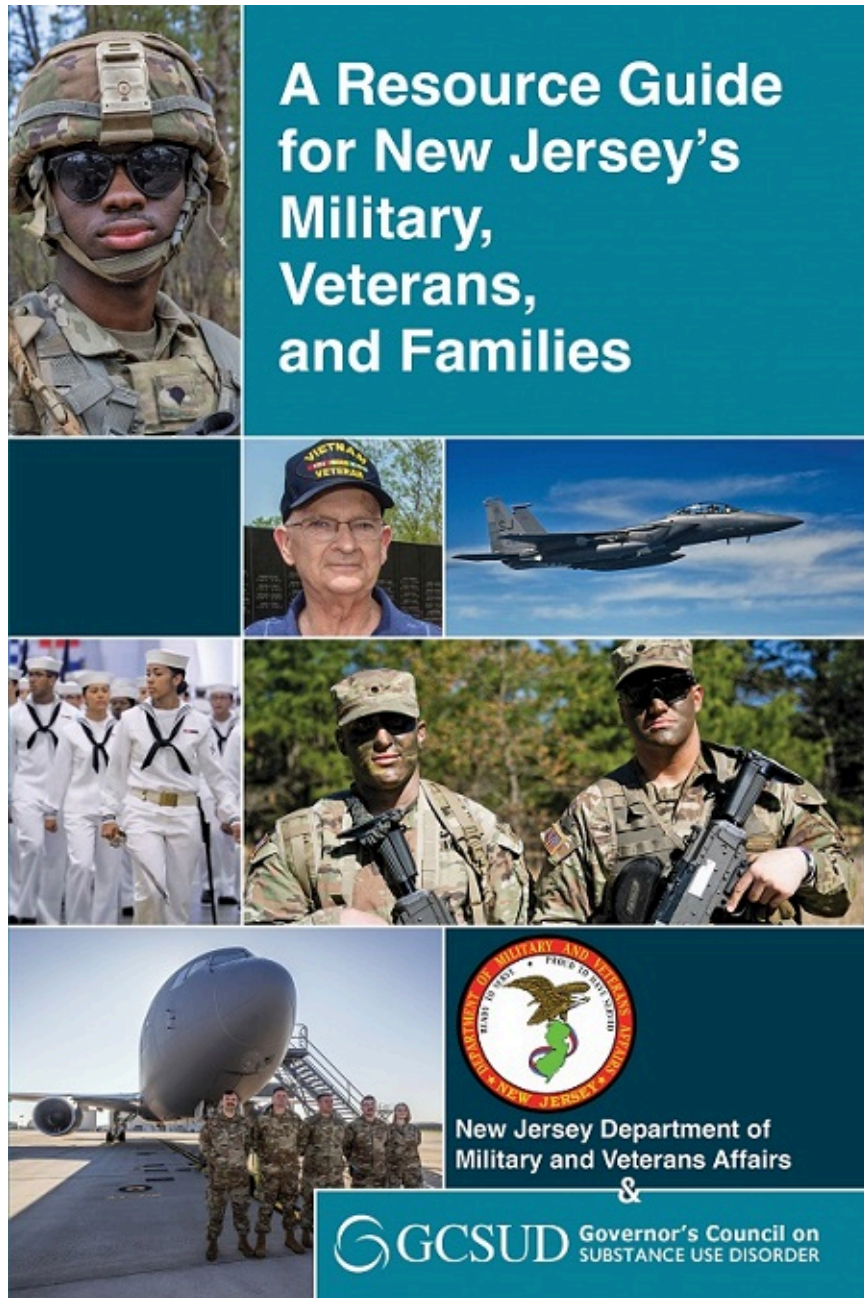
## **WWII Submarine Veteran Receives Medal**

U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Calvin Moon, a 100-year-old World War II submarine veteran, receives a [New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal](#) from Army Brig. Gen. Timothy Coakley, Director of the New Jersey National Guard Joint Staff, at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Wrightstown, NJ on July 25, 2024.

Moon was also presented a USS New Jersey SSN-796 license plate from USS New Jersey (SSN 796) Master Chief Joseph Calhoun, Chief of the Boat, along with Sailors assigned to the USS New Jersey.

[View Images](#)

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**The Resource Guide has been updated  
effective July 25, 2024.**

Get Current Edition

# NEW JERSEY VETERANS' BENEFITS GUIDE



**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF  
MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**



**The Benefits Guide has been updated  
effective July 23, 2024.**

Get Current Edition



### **SMS Alerts - Text "NJVets" to 78015**

Opt-in now to receive SMS Alerts from DMAVA! Text "NJVets" to 78015 or scan the QR code above and send. You will be immediately opted-in to receive alerts and important messages from the Division of Veterans Services.

This service is provided free of charge, however, carrier messaging and data rates may apply. To opt-out at any time, simply reply "Stop".

**THE DMAVA READJUSTMENT  
COUNSELING PROGRAM PROVIDES  
VETERANS WITH:**

**INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING  
GROUP COUNSELING  
FAMILY COUNSELING**

**SCAN THE CODE AND CALL YOUR  
LOCAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER,**

**OR CALL:**

**(888) 865-8387,**

**OR EMAIL:**

**VBB@DMAVA.NJ.GOV**



# SUPPORT IS PEER TO PEER



**Call Us 24/7  
7 days a week**  
(866) 838-7654



**NJ Veterans' Benefits Hotline**

**888-865-8387**

**[vbb@dmava.nj.gov](mailto:vbb@dmava.nj.gov)**

Veterans Outreach Schedule

Veterans Service Offices

# DMAVA Departments



## **NJ National Guard CounterDrug Task Force**

The New Jersey National Guard CounterDrug Task Force, Drug Demand Reduction Outreach section hosted a DDRO Phase One course July 8-12, 2024 for newly appointed Civil Operators and Program Managers in CDTF.

Master Sgt. James Kube, the Lead Instructor and NJ CDTF-DDRO Coordinator, invited his sister, Amanda Kube, to guest speak on the third day of the course to share her experience in recovery and her transition to becoming one of the Peer Recovery Specialists with Robert Wood Johnson Barnabas Health Peer Recovery Program.

[Read Full Story](#)



## **NJYCA Class 58**


On July 27, 2024, the [New Jersey Youth ChalleNGe Academy](#) held a ceremony that marks the end of the two-week Acclimation Phase of the program and celebrates the transformation of Class 58 from Candidates into Cadets.

During the next five months of the Residential Phase, the Cadets will experience a structured and disciplined schedule that focuses on developing their social, emotional, academic, and basic life skills. Congratulations, Cadets!

[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)



DEIB Newsletter

A close-up photograph of a strawberry pie with a golden-brown crust and fresh strawberries on top. The pie is the background for the text overlay.

**NJ National Guard  
Family Programs**

July 2024

July Newsletter

## State Partners



## **NJ State Agencies**

- [Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicides among Service Members, Veterans & Their Families](#)
- [The New Jersey's Governor "We Value Our Veterans" Awards](#)
- [Vote For Valor](#)
- [Career Services for Veterans](#)
- [Tax Resources for Military/Veterans](#)
- [Educator Certification for Military Spouses and Veterans](#)
- [Civil Service Preference for Veterans](#)
- [NJ National Guard Hunting / Fishing Licenses](#)
- [NJ Special Hawker and Peddlers License](#)
- [Veterans Designation for Drivers License](#)
- [Military CDL Skills Waiver Program](#)
- [Disabled Veteran / Purple Heart Recipient Placards](#)
- [Disabled Veteran Hunting and Fishing Licenses](#)
- [Veteran and Disabled Veteran-Owned Business](#)
- [Division of Consumer Affairs Military Outreach & Support](#)
- [Professional & Occupational Licenses for Veterans and Spouses](#)
- [Military and Overseas Voting](#)
- [Troops to Teachers](#)
- [Journey Through Jersey](#)

## **Federal Partners**

**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

## **VA begins transition to simpler online sign-in experience for Veterans' account access**

*VA News | July 17, 2024*

WASHINGTON - Today, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced plans to start transitioning Veterans, over the next year, to a more modern, streamlined online login process to access benefit and health care services. This is a step in VA and the Biden-Harris Administration's comprehensive efforts to safeguard and protect Veteran data and that of their beneficiaries.

With VA's support through consistent outreach and training, Veterans will transition to one of two sign-in options to access VA.gov, VA mobile applications, and other VA online services: Login.gov or ID.me accounts. Veterans can begin this transition now by visiting [www.va.gov/sign-in-changes](https://www.va.gov/sign-in-changes) to learn how to create a verified Login.gov or ID.me account. The process takes about 10 minutes.

Veterans and other beneficiaries will no longer be able to use usernames and passwords for My HealthVet after Jan. 31, 2025, or DS Logon after Sept. 30, 2025.

After these deadlines, Veterans who have not yet transitioned will still be able to access their data and resume managing their benefits and services online once they have created their new account.

[Read Full News Feature](#)

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## How to Calculate VA Disability Ratings

In this episode of theSITREP, the host discusses how to calculate VA disability ratings; also known as VA Math.

[theSITREP Podcast](#)

The graphic features three rows of military service medals at the top, labeled "VIETNAM", "GULF WAR", and "POST - 9/11". Below the medals, the text asks: "WERE YOU EXPOSED TO BURN PITS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS, CHEMICALS, AGENT ORANGE, OR OTHER TOXINS WHILE SERVING IN THE MILITARY?". The background shows two soldiers in a field with a biohazard symbol overlaid. At the bottom right, it says "Apply for VA health care today at VA.gov/PACT." The footer includes the VA logo, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs name, a QR code, and contact information: "Have questions? Call 1-800-MyVA411 and press 0 to speak with someone right away."/>

**VIETNAM**      **GULF WAR**      **POST - 9/11**

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**VA** | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

**Have questions?**  
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to speak with someone right away.



## The Women Veterans Call Center is Your Guide to VA

Live women representatives, many of whom are Veterans, are standing by to help.

**Call or text 1-855-VA-WOMEN  
(1-855-829-6636)  
or chat with us online**

Weekdays 8:00 am – 10:00 pm ET  
Saturday 8:00 am – 6:30 pm ET



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

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## Featured Links

- [National Parks Pass](#)
- [VALife Insurance](#)
- [VA Urgent Care Services](#)
- [Accessing Records from the National Archives or NPRC](#)
- [PACT Act Performance Dashboard](#)
- [How to Check Your PACT Act Claim Status](#)
- [Download VA Benefit Letters](#)
- [Podcasts on Veterans' Issues](#)
- [VA Health and Benefits Mobile App](#)
- [Women Veterans Call Center](#)
- [Veterans Legacy Memorial](#)
- [Million Veteran Program](#)
- [#VetResources](#)

# Community Spotlight



## **New Jersey Civil Air Patrol**

Members of the 140th Cyber Operations Squadron hosted the Civil Air Patrol on July 24, 2024 during the cadet's annual week-long summer encampment.

The cadets received a cyber mission brief as part of a curriculum that included science, technology engineering and math (STEM), fitness, aviation, space and leadership training.

The [New Jersey Civil Air Patrol](#), headquartered at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst has held summer encampments here for many years. The training is a requirement for cadets seeking promotion to officer ranking.



## **Mainland Regional High School**

The [177th Fighter Wing](#) Enlisted Council has been working over the past several months in coordination with the Mainland Regional High School Art Program Teacher Lori Vannini and students Dan, Will, Brielle and Emilia, on painting a flag drop box for the Wing.

The flag drop box is used to properly dispose of any unserviceable American flags in a respectful manner.

Thank you Mainland Regional High School students and staff members for this generous deed!

## **DMAVA Throwback**



### **NJYCA Class 23**

On May 29, 2006, 45 Cadets from the [New Jersey Youth ChalleNGe Academy](#) marched in the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C.

The Cadets had the honor of carrying the banner for the “America Supports You” organization, which highlights America’s support of U.S. troops. The Cadets were also thrilled to meet the Grand Marshall of the parade, actor and director Gary Sinise.

## **Never Forget**

In Honor of all those from New Jersey who gave their lives in the fight against terrorism during Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. In humble gratitude, we remember their sacrifice.

August 1, 2004

Operation Iraqi Freedom

**SPC Anthony Joseph  
Dixon**

U.S. Army

Lindenwold, New Jersey

August 8, 2011

Operation Enduring Freedom

**SGT Alessandro L.  
Plutino**

U.S. Army

Pitman, New Jersey

August 1, 2006

Operation Iraqi Freedom

**SPC Hai Ming Hsia**

U.S. Army

Newark, New Jersey

August 9, 2005

Operation Iraqi Freedom

**SPC Gennaro Pellegrini  
Jr.**

U.S. Army

Wildwood, New Jersey

August 3, 2005

Operation Iraqi Freedom

**LCpl Edward A.  
Schroeder**

U.S. Marine Corps

Mapplewood, New Jersey

August 10, 2011

Operation Enduring Freedom

**CPL Nicholas S. Ott**

U.S. Marine Corps

Manchester, New Jersey

August 6, 2007

Operation Iraqi Freedom

**CPL Kareem R. Khan**

U.S. Army

Manahawkin, New Jersey

August 12, 2004

Operation Iraqi Freedom

**CPT Michael Yury  
Tarlavsky**

U.S. Army

Passaic, New Jersey

*"But on the battlefield their feet stood fast, and in an instant at the height of their fortune, they passed away from the scene, not of their fear, but of their glory."*

~ Pericles

# NJ Fallen Heroes Memorial

## History



Maj. Thomas B. McGuire Jr.

### **August 1, 1920**

Thomas McGuire was born in Ridgewood. McGuire moved to

### **August 7, 1861**

General Philip Kearny, one armed New Jersey hero of the Mexican

Florida with his mother after his parents separated in the 1930s, and left Georgia Tech in 1941 to join the United States Army Air Corps. After flying in the Aleutian Islands, he became a Lockheed P-38 Lightning pilot in 1943 and then flew combat missions in New Guinea and the Philippines, where he became one of America's leading aces. McGuire had thirty-eight kills and rose to the rank of major before being killed on January 7, 1945 in an accidental crash on Negros Island in the Philippines while maneuvering in a dogfight. McGuire, who earned the Distinguished Service Cross, three silver stars, six Distinguished Flying Crosses, fifteen Air Medals and three purple hearts by the age of twenty-four, was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. In 1948, Fort Dix Army Air Force Base was renamed McGuire Air Force Base in his honor.

### **August 5, 1775**

The New Jersey Provincial Congress ordered that 54 companies of Minute Men, of 64 men each, be raised and organized into battalions. The Minute Men were required to have "their own firelocks upon their shoulders, 23 cartridges in their cartouch [sic] boxes; the worm, priming wire and 12 flints in their pockets and a pound of powder and three pounds of bullets at home."

War, assumed command of the First New Jersey Brigade in Virginia. The ill-disciplined brigade's first meeting with its new commander was not auspicious, as he found the Jerseymen looting a peach orchard. After placing the officers under arrest, Kearny met with them and laid out disciplinary guidelines. Over the winter of 1861-1862, the general's training regimen turned the brigade into a first class outfit, a reputation it maintained to the end of the war. Kearny never commanded the Jerseymen in combat, though, leaving for division command before the Peninsula Campaign.

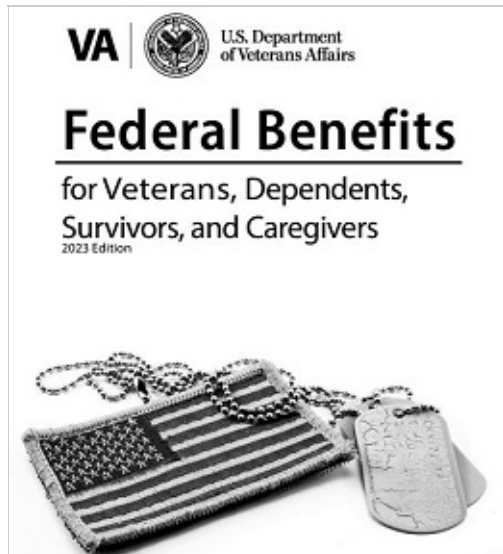
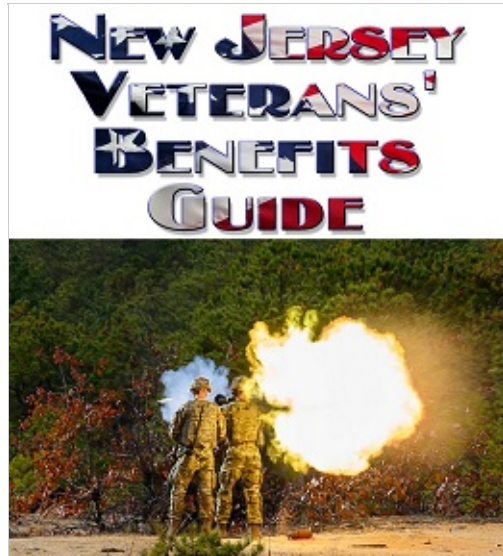
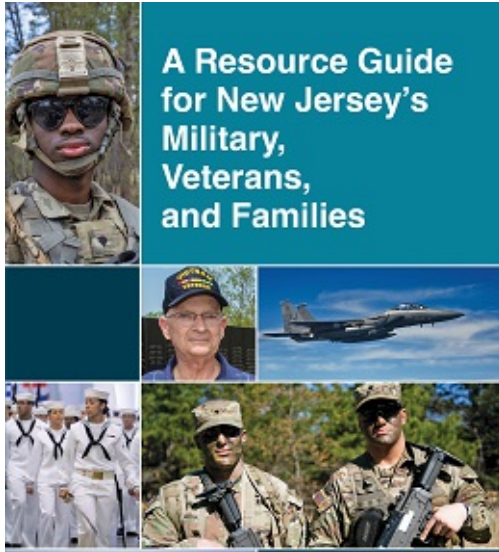
### **August 7, 1967**

The first C-141 transport plane, dubbed The Garden State Starlifter, arrived at McGuire Air Force Base.

### **August 8, 1757**

The garrison of Fort William Henry, on Lake George, including several hundred men from the New Jersey Provincial Regiment, known as the "Jersey Blues," surrendered to the French. Many of the Jerseymen were kidnapped by Canadian Indians in the post-surrender massacre made famous in the Burlington, New Jersey-born James Fenimore Cooper's novel *Last of the Mohicans* and its subsequent film adaptations.

# Resources



# DMAVA Careers

## **We Are Hiring!**

At the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs we take our work in support of Veterans, Servicemembers and their families very seriously. Whether supporting our Veterans with nursing care, transitional housing, or assisting them in navigating access to their Veteran benefits, the Department provides valuable services and can offer rewarding career opportunities to members of the public.

We also have opportunities in facilities management and program management. In addition, we have job openings for members of our military to serve in AGR and Federal Technician roles.

Subscribe to [DMAVA Jobs Bulletin](#) to stay updated on job openings.

Vacancies

Stay Connected



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We hope you enjoy receiving our newsletter and find it both educational and engaging. If you have questions about our department, our programs or your benefits, please visit our website at [nj.gov/military](https://nj.gov/military) to get contact information.

## Contact DMAVA

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Please email us at [outreach@dmava.nj.gov](mailto:outreach@dmava.nj.gov) with feedback and comments regarding the newsletter. If you would like to contribute with an item of interest to our subscribers, please email us your proposal.

Visit the [DMAVA archives](#) to view previous editions of our newsletter.

**Forward to a friend**

Subscribe





[nj.gov/military](http://nj.gov/military)

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